

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A battery pack, ~~including~~ comprising:

a plurality of batteries each having ends, side faces, a top surface and connection terminals on the top surface; and

a plurality of holding frames each having end sides opposed to the battery ends, a top side opposed to the top surface of the battery and side faces opposed to the side faces of the battery,

wherein each holding frame is capable of accommodating and holding one of the batteries, ~~respectively~~, so as to provide spaces between the battery and the holding, said spaces including

spaces between one side face of the battery and one of the holding frame side faces,

spaces between an outside of the ends of the battery and the opposing end sides of the holding frame, and

spaces between the top surface of the battery and the top side of the holding frame extending from each connection terminal to the nearest end side of the holding frame, wherein the top side of the holding frame is located above the

connection terminals with respect to an axis drawn from the top surface of the battery to the top side of the holding frame, ~~therebetween, both~~

the holding frame side faces of each of the holding frames, that are  
opposed to each other, ~~being opened to form~~ having openings, wherein the holding  
frames ~~that accommodate and hold the batteries, respectively,~~ are set in an  
arrangement arranged with their the holding frame openings aligned, ends of the  
arrangement being the holding frame side faces that are not opposed to another  
holding frame side face, [[at]] wherein at both of the ends of the arranged  
arrangement ~~holding frames,~~ end plates ~~being arranged that are jointed~~  
joined together with the holding frames as one unit, the holding frames and the end  
plates ~~that are jointed~~ forming an outer case for accommodating the plurality of  
batteries and for forming a cooling space to surround around each battery.

2. (Currently Amended) A battery pack, including comprising:

a plurality of batteries each having ends, side faces, a top surface,  
connection terminals on the top surface and an oval or oblong cross-sectional  
shape in a plane that intersects the ends and side faces of the battery; [[and]]

a plurality of holding frames each having end sides opposed to the  
battery ends, a top side opposed to the top surface of the battery and side faces  
opposed to the side faces of the battery; and

end plates, wherein

each holding frame ~~of which~~ accommodates and holds ~~[[each]]~~ one of the batteries ~~therein~~ with spaces provided between the battery and the holding frame, said spaces including

first spaces between an outside [[both]] of the ends of the battery and the end sides of the holding frame, said first spaces extending above a plane defined by the top surface in [[the]] a longitudinal direction defined by an axis drawn from the top surface of the battery to the top side of the of the holding frame,

spaces between the top surface of the battery extending from each connection terminal to the nearest end side of the holding frame and the top side of the holding frame, wherein the top side of the holding frame is located above the connection terminals with respect to an axis drawn from the top surface of the battery to the top side of the holding frame, and

outside spaces between one side face of the battery and one of the holding frame side faces,

each of the holding frames ~~being formed by~~ having

a rectangular ~~frame~~ cross-sectional shape in a plane that intersects the top side and side faces of the holding frame, having and

opened side faces that face both side faces of the battery,

wherein the holding frames ~~that accommodate and hold the batteries, respectively,~~ are set in an arrangement arranged with the opened side

faces ~~thereof~~ of the holding frames aligned, ends of the arrangement being the holding frame side faces that are not opposed to another holding frame side face, at both ends of the ~~arranged holding frames;~~ arrangement the end plates being ~~arranged that are jointed~~ joined together with the holding plates ~~as one unit,~~ the holding frames and the end plates ~~that are jointed~~ forming an outer case for accommodating the plurality of batteries therein and for forming cooling spaces outside both ends of the respective batteries and between the side faces of the respective adjacent batteries.

3.(Previously Presented) The battery pack according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein

each of the holding frames is provided with a gas-discharge passage portion for sealing and covering a space surrounding a gas-discharge port provided in the battery and having connection ports opened at both side faces of that holding frame.

4.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein

~~connection terminals are provided in each battery, and a~~ the holding frames provide space for allowing the connection terminals to be arranged therein within the

holding frames and for allowing connections within the holding frames between the connection terminals of the batteries ~~is formed in each holding frame.~~

5.(Currently Amended) A holding frame for a battery, having end sides, a top side and side faces and ~~formed by a rectangular frame cross-sectional shape in a plane that intersects the top side and side faces of the holding frame, wherein the holding frame that accommodates and holds a battery having~~ ends opposed to the holding frame end sides, side faces opposed to the side faces of the holding frame, a top surface opposed to the top side of the holding frame, connection terminals on the top surface and ~~an oval or oblong cross-sectional shape in a plane that intersects the ends and side faces of the battery, wherein the holding frame~~ [[and]] has opened side faces that are opposed to both side faces of the battery, wherein spaces are provided between the battery and the holding frame, said spaces including

first spaces between an outside [[both]] of the ends of the battery and the end sides of the holding frame, said first spaces extending above a plane defined by the top surface in [[the]] a longitudinal direction defined by an axis drawn from the top surface of the battery to the top side of the of the holding frame of the battery and,

spaces between an outside of at least one side face of the battery, ~~while the holding frame accommodates and holds the battery.~~

6.(Currently Amended) The holding frame for a battery according to claim 5, wherein

the holding frame is provided with a gas-discharge passage portion, for sealing and covering a space surrounding a gas-discharge port provided in the battery, and the holding frame having connection ports opened at both side faces thereof of the holding frame, is further provided.

7. (New) The holding frame for a battery according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein each holding frame accommodates and holds only one of the batteries.